

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During VIII Five Year Plan, ONGC proposes to drill 210 exploratory wells and carry out 73,000 LKM of 2-D and 3-D seismic surveys.

Fire Accident in H.P.C.L., Bhubaneswar

5802. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fire accident occurred in the office of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the details of the losses suffered;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs.31,65,000/- approximately.

(c) and (d) According to HPC, three separate enquiries were conducted to investigate the incident. It has not been possible to determine the cause of the fire and no specific person/persons is responsible for the fire.

Scheme for Utilisation of Natural Gas

5803. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT:
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from State Governments for utilisation of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to give priority to certain areas allocation of gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Requests have been received from time to time from State Governments for allocation of gas for different projects and they are considered keeping in view the availability and commitments made in the region.

(c) and (d). Priority is generally given to the Power, Fertilizer, Steel and Petrochemical Sectors, based on the imputed value of gas for these applications.

Low Employment Elasticity

5804. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employment elasticity in agricultural sector is very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). Employment elasticity in agriculture sector has been estimated to be 0.36 during 1983 to 1987-88, the latest interval for which requisite data are available. There are no norms on the basis of which the elasticity could be called high or low. However, efforts are being made to improve employment elasticity through proliferation of labour intensive agricultural activities like horticulture, floriculture, aquaculture, sericulture, bee keeping, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, poultry farming, piggery, agro processing and other allied occupations.

Hindi in Missions Abroad

5805. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of our missions abroad where Hindi is used;

(b) how many publications are being brought out by our missions abroad in each foreign country;

(c) how many of these publications are published in Hindi language in each foreign country;

(d) whether there are any guidelines to the Indian missions abroad for use of Hindi; and

(e) if so, the details in regard thereto; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). All our Missions in foreign countries are expected to follow the instructions issued to them regarding the use of official language in their work and in this regard they are also expected to

implement the Official Language Act and Rules framed thereunder as far as functionally possible.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Crude Reservoirs in Karim nagar

5807. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Krishna-Godavri Basin is having abundant gas reservoirs;

(b) if so, the steps taken to accelerate the exploration work to generate more gas;

(c) whether the Pedapalli-Anther gram villages in Karim Nagar district in Andhra Pradesh are also having crude reservoirs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to carry exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Approximately 32.62 billion cu. mts. of recoverable reserves of gas have been established in the Krishna-Godavari basin (both offshore and onshore) as on 1.1.1991. Currently, 11 rigs in the onshore area and 2 rigs in the offshore area have been deployed to carry out the work of exploration in the basin.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Baharul Islam Committee Report

5808. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have re-